

# Building a tech-powered future

With his software engineering skills, SG:D Scholarship holder Aaron Teo hopes to build a safer Singapore society

BY ESTHER TEO

**S**ingapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship holder Aaron Teo, 26, believes that technology plays a significant role in empowering a society.

A summer intern at Accredify, an identity management start-up, Mr Teo is helping to develop cross-platform mobile applications that are beneficial to Singaporeans.

He will start full-time work as a software engineer in a multinational payments technology company later this year after he graduates with a Bachelor of Science (Information Systems) from the Singapore Management University. He shares how the SG:D Scholarship offered by Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) helped him to fulfil his dreams.

#### Why did you sign up for the SG:D Scholarship?

"I wanted to challenge myself beyond academics and gain some exposure to technology sector networks. Software engineering allowed me to express my creativity for problem solving and critical thinking. I have developed a strong interest ever since. This scholarship has given me the freedom to forge my own career path based on my interests and passion."

#### How has the SG:D Scholarship enriched your undergraduate life?

"It provided extensive networking programmes for scholars to reach out to companies about work and learning opportunities like technical workshops. The technical and soft skills we gained brought our dreams of working in the technology sector a little closer."

"My overseas learning experiences at University of California, Berkeley and The University of British Columbia were also memorable."

#### What impact do you hope to have on Singapore in the future?

"I want to contribute my skills towards building a society that is continuously innovating in the field of technology. I hope to build software products that are accessible to everyone, and make our lives here safer and much more fun."



PHOTO: AARON TEO

#### SG:D Scholarship (Undergraduate)

##### CRITERIA:

Be a Singapore citizen; have a good co-curricular activity (CCA) record; possess a strong interest in a career in the ICM industry; commence university studies within one year of award (i.e. commence studies latest by academic year 2022 for 2021 awardees)

For full scholarship: A/IB/IP Level or polytechnic diploma holder pursuing an ICM-related degree at a local or overseas university

For mid-term scholarship: existing student pursuing an ICM-related undergraduate degree at a local or overseas university with minimally one academic year of study remaining from point of award

##### VALUE OF THE AWARD:

Tuition and other compulsory university fees; annual living allowance and a one-time computer allowance; medical insurance and visa fees, and other relevant fees where mandatory; funding support for courses and certifications beyond school curriculum; support for overseas experiences including overseas internships, student exchange programmes, and competitions

##### BOND PERIOD:

Five years (full overseas scholarship); three years (full local scholarship); four years (Fast Track Bachelors-Masters Scholarship); between one and four years (mid-term local or overseas scholarship)